

Liaison

Library Association News-Sheet

News Editors: R. G. Surridge and D. R. Jamieson

June 1958

A.P.T. AWARD— PROGRESS REPORT

Any observer present for the first time at the May Council meeting who had thought that the L.A. had been inactive in the matter of salary gradings would have had that attitude quickly changed. He would nevertheless have left the meeting in a sober mood.

A report from our representatives appointed to consult with NALGO in the matter of the A.P.T. Award showed that in accordance with the decision of the Membership Committee confirmed by Council at the March meeting, NALGO was prepared to press on with the negotiations with the employers' side of the N.J.C. **for a new A.P.T. II award based on control of five whole-time staff.** NALGO has dealt sympathetically with the L.A. representatives who have been consulted at every stage and we cannot doubt that consultation regarding future contingencies will continue.

It is no secret, however, that the Membership Committee are bitterly disappointed at the failure to date of the National Joint Council to grant a satisfactory award and the Membership Committee has on a number of occasions discussed the whole matter at great length and in the fullest detail. These discussions were renewed at the last Council Meeting and the net result of the debate was that the Council, completely assured after a full and detailed investigation that no one in the Membership Committee was in any way complacent on this issue and that everything that could have been done by the Membership Committee had in fact been done, gave its overwhelming support to the steps taken throughout by its Committee.

The second item of news was that the S.M.C.C.L. has been unable to accept the suggestion that the scope of that Society be widened to include all chartered librarians in the public library service instead of only chief librarians as at present. The Executive Committee of the S.M.C.C.L. were sympathetic to the underlying need and the officers of the Society expressed their willingness as individuals to take part in preliminary steps which might be taken towards the formation of a new trade union to cover all chartered librarians, provided a sufficient body of support from individual librarians for the idea is forthcoming. In the initial stages, however, they were emphatic that their activities on behalf of chief librarians would be gravely handicapped if an attempt was made at present to multiply many times the quite small membership of their Society.

The third item was a report which, together with the success of the Council's new policy towards individual posts, may well influence the second item. An improvement in professional representation on negotiating bodies was reported whereby NALGO has agreed to a "panel system". This means that representatives of professional associations within the Joint Consultative Committee may be invited to serve on the staff side of the Grading Sub-Committee of the N.J.C. whenever matters that affect the conditions of service of their members are under consideration. It is hoped that this step will go far towards removing the present sense of remoteness and frustration which members of many professional bodies feel at their present exclusion from direct participation in negotiations.

ROBERTS COMMITTEE

A.M.C. and C.C.A. Evidence

No one who has followed the arguments on the problems of the re-organization of local government areas and powers would have expected that the evidence of the local authority associations to the Roberts Committee would be at all similar. Their printed memoranda are so different that one could well wonder if they are dealing with the same subject! Their size, scope, approach, conclusions and recommendations are unlike in almost every particular.

Half the C.C.A. memorandum is taken up with its views on the library needs of the community, the function of public libraries and the present state of the library service. It is argued that only larger authorities have the resources to meet the demands of a comprehensive service at all levels of provision and the resultant recommendation is that in future **only county councils and county borough councils should be library authorities.** It suggests that all districts of 75,000 population and over should have the right to claim the delegation of responsibility for administering the service, save for the powers to approve estimates, levy rates and raise loans, control of book selection and stock, appointment of senior staff and siting and positioning of buildings. It is further suggested that discretionary delegation should be possible to councils below that population—to as low as 20,000, or even lower, in exceptional cases.

Although the tenor of the evidence is on the desirability of larger authorities, the Association recognizes "that a number of county and county borough councils serve populations below those which might be proposed if population were adopted as the sole criterion of library functions". This is borne out in a statistical appendix which shows that there are 9 counties and 23 county boroughs serving populations of less than 80,000.

By comparison the A.M.C.'s document is concise to the point of being scrappy. Its case rests almost entirely on the simple proposition that a basic library service is essentially local in character and that "any proposed changes . . . must be based on evidence which demonstrates irrefutably the inadequacy of the existing structure and arrangements, and moreover, demonstrates with equal emphasis that any proposed change will be followed by an improvement in the service sufficiently marked to justify the loss of local influence and control". The Association believes "that public opinion expressing itself through the local council is the right and proper measure both to establish the criterion [of a satisfactory service] and to assess by how much and in what direction the library service fails to meet the standard which it sets." Accordingly the conclusion is reached that there is no case for the compulsory

withdrawal of library powers on the basis of population or rateable value, "On the contrary, **if any change in the law is to be made it should be in the direction of giving authorities freedom to opt out of the county council system**".

The creation of authorities large enough to satisfy their own needs would ultimately make the regional library bureaux unnecessary, thinks the C.C.A., and considers that the resultant savings could be used to strengthen the N.C.L. The A.M.C., however, admitting that "local libraries cannot meet all local needs", regards the regional library system as a satisfactory scheme of voluntary co-operation to take care of this problem, and points out that small libraries take pride in being able to lend to larger neighbours. Both bodies give judiciously selected statistics to prove their points. The C.C.A. has an appendix giving the number of books borrowed (*but not those lent*) through the East Midlands Bureau in 1955-6, which seeks to show that the libraries which form part of a larger unit are less reliant on the bureau than are the comparable independent units. A statement of returns from the North Western Regional System for 1956-7 is published by the A.M.C. to "illustrate the marked contribution of the small authority to the needs of the region through the regional bureau and to the country as a whole through the National Central Library".

The Associations are not even agreed in their answers to the question put by the Roberts Committee as to whether there should be a charge for library services. The A.M.C. considers that there should be charges for extra-district readers "capable of being removed by agreement between one authority and another", and for media other than printed matter, whilst the C.C.A. are emphatic that all the services should be free.

The nearest they come to agreement is in their attitudes to committees, both Associations feeling that authorities should be free to decide for themselves to which committee they should refer their library powers. The A.M.C. is quite adamant that the library service should not be considered part of the education service.

O. S. TOMLINSON.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Appointment of Assistant-in-Charge, Central Lending Library, Barrow-in-Furness P.L. TREBLE SUCCESS

Applications were invited from Chartered Librarians for the above post at a salary in accordance with A.P.T. I (£575-£725), in an advertisement in the *Times Literary Supplement* on 21st March. The assistant in charge controls a staff varying in number from seven to nine. The secretary wrote to the Town Clerk drawing attention to the N.J.C. grading decisions for Library posts whereby A.P.T. I is the agreed grading where the number of staff supervised is three. He requested the County Borough Council to revise the grading to a higher level and stated that in the meantime he would advise intending candidates who communicated with him not to apply for the post until the authority had considered the matter and reached a satisfactory decision. A notice was inserted in the *T.L.S.* the following week. On the 7th May the Town Clerk replied saying that the matter had been reconsidered by his Council and it had been decided to regrade the post to A.P.T. II (£725-£845). Arising from this, two other posts were considered and the authority has decided to regrade the Chief Assistant and the Technical Librarian from A.P.T. I to A.P.T. II also.

More News of Upgradings

The post of West Riding County Librarian has been upgraded from the scale £1,515-£1,735 to £1,625-£1,900. **Eighteen other posts have been upgraded.**

Poplar... Similar pressure by the L.A., S.M.C.C.L., NALGO, and other bodies and individuals has resulted in the advertisement for Borough Librarian being withdrawn. This was advertised at £1,110-£1,320 and the Poplar Council is to consider the matter again at its next Council meeting. We understand, however, that professional solidarity was badly weakened in this case with 15 applications for the post being received. (Some of these no longer stand.)

Hinckley... The Acting Librarian of Hinckley, appointed on Grade I in 1957, has been regraded to A.P.T. III.

* * *

The Patriarchal Library, Alexandria, has been removed from Corresponding Institutional Membership of the L.A. All letters to its Librarian about the non-payment of subscriptions have been ignored for the past 3 years.

SHOULD WE BE ASHAMED?

(2)

In the February issue of *Liaison* we published an item with this identical headline. We deliberately use it again because it has, if anything, greater point now than it did then.

Across on the opposite page was a report of Yarmouth library complaining bitterly of the savagery of some of its readers—pages torn or hacked about, *Britannica* mutilated, expensive books so malhandled that they dropped to pieces inside a few weeks. And up and down the country many other librarians could have added similar accounts of wanton, selfish behaviour.

We are doubtless entitled to feel enraged that treatment of books in this fashion is still with us in 1958. But we ought to be appalled that librarians, members of our own profession, can do their share of ripping out pages and even whole sections. In Chaucer House there is evidence of journals from our own library which have been mutilated in a way that leaves no doubt it has been done deliberately for selfish purposes.

How can the culprits answer our question, except by

YES

Successor to E. E. Moon as joint news editor of *Liaison* is D. R. Jamieson, Librarian of the Intelligence Dept. in the British Aluminium Company, London, author of Special Library Notes in the *Record* and an examiner for part of Registration.

WANTED—*Newshounds*

The editors of *Liaison* would like to hear from librarians up and down the country, and in London as well, who would be prepared to scan their local press regularly and to pass on items which might be of interest for *Liaison*. Librarians who would be willing to do this are asked to write to the news editors at Chaucer House.

LIBRARY SCHOOLS—NEW ENQUIRY

COUNCIL have agreed to an enquiry which would aim at drawing up desired standards of size, staffing, accommodation and equipment, etc., at full-time library schools. The need for such an appraisal was strongly urged in the Education Committee.

Attempts have been made over the years to formulate standards but these have met with no success. To formulate the L.A. policy a committee has been set up consisting of the President, Chairman of the Education Committee, A. Hinton, D. J. Foskett and three representatives from library schools.

Once this policy has been established an exploratory meeting will be sought with the Principals of the various Colleges to discuss the whole question.

BRISTOL SCHOOL FOR SOUTH WEST?

Is there a case for establishing a new, full-time library school at Bristol, to serve the south-western counties? The Education Committee considered a letter from Mr. Haugh seeking information on the views of the Library Association about its establishment. The committee considered that Bristol would be an appropriate centre for such a school and would be prepared to consider an application for approval.

The actual decision on a school in Bristol rests, of course, with the local authority there, who would have to establish it in the College of Commerce.

NEW CHOICE FOR FINALS

A new and additional alternative paper in part 4 of Finals will be introduced with the Winter 1959 examinations. The paper concerns the **Presentation and Dissemination of Information** and the Senior Examiner is expected to be Mr. W. Ashworth, Information Officer of British Nylon Spinners Ltd.

"No" to more S.C.E.L.s.

The L.A. Council has turned down an A.A.L. suggestion of setting up Standing Committees on Education in Librarianship in Branch areas. The feeling expressed was that this function could quite adequately be performed by the Branches as already established and little, if anything, was to be gained by superimposing additional committees.

BRIGHTON SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Second Annual Reunion Dinner of the Brighton School of Librarianship Old Students Association will be held at the Royal Pavilion Hotel, Brighton, on Saturday, 27th September, at 7.15 p.m. Tickets will be 12s. 6d. which will include service charges. Remittance should be made as soon as possible to D. W. Bromley, 178 Binley Road, Coventry.

RECRUITMENT

Startling Shortage of Qualified Librarians

The subject of the recruitment to library posts on Grade A.P.T. I took up a great deal of the Membership Committee's time. This followed a statistical report by the Membership Officer on posts which had been advertised from December, 1957, to February, 1958. The view of the committee was that many of the facts revealed should be made public knowledge. There is, for example, the alarming fact that the profession has a dire shortage of qualified librarians, and could absorb at this moment something like 700 of them.

A memorandum is to be prepared on the situation that has been revealed by this report and this is to be considered at the next meeting of the Membership Committee, with a view to publication. The Conference Sub-Committee is to consider the possibility of holding a Conference Session in 1959 on the recruitment, career prospects and training facilities for librarians.

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Torquay Conference 1959

All arrangements with Torquay Borough Council have been satisfactorily concluded. The invitation to hold the 1959 Conference there from 21st-25th September has therefore been accepted.

CHAUCER HOUSE—Its future

Negotiations are proceeding as to the future of the Association's Headquarters, which, as members are aware, is situated in the middle of an extensive University College development scheme.

It can be revealed that three parties are involved but due to the tripartite nature of these negotiations it is not yet possible for *Liaison* to issue any statement by the L.A. Council as to the stage that has been reached.

We are assured, however, by Mr. F. M. Gardner (Chairman, Executive Committee) that a full statement will be made very soon, to appear either in *Liaison* or the *Record*.

Chaucer House management overhaul. A meeting of the Office Organization Sub-Committee (see *May Liaison*) is to be held on 17th June.

BRIGHTON CONFERENCE

Presidential Introduction

To meet the wishes of members, our President, Professor R. Irwin, is to be introduced to the Conference, this year, at the Opening Session. This is to take place before the arrival of the Mayor of Brighton. Mr. L. R. McCoivin has agreed to perform this ceremony.

"Symposium" no longer

The synopses of the three contributors to the sessions on current library problems are of so diverse a character that this will no longer be styled a Symposium. The meeting will be conducted in the time-honoured way either by Mr. M. C. Pottinger (if not needed by the Naval Reserve) or Mr. W. Caldwell.

The University and Research Committee meeting is to be on "The Technical College and its Library". The paper will be given by Dr. H. Lowery, Principal of S.W. Essex Technical College.

Exhibition . . . on the Literary Associations of Sussex is to be arranged by Messrs. Musgrave and Dove.

It was decided to allow the insertion in Conference Notes of a notice of the A.G.M. of the Smaller Libraries Group.

Post Mortem . . . The Conference Sub-Committee is to meet very soon after Conference for a more immediate analysis of its success (or otherwise).

LIBRARIANS SEEK THE FACTS

The L.A. is going to the Nuffield Foundation to ask for funds—about £5,000 would be needed—to finance a one-year national survey into the type and extent of library services demanded throughout the country. The idea for a national survey came originally from the active pen of Mr. J. F. Bryon (Eccles), who affirmed that we have no authoritative statistical evidence to support the assumptions we make regarding the reading needs of people of different ages, educational backgrounds and vocations. Dr. Louis Moss, Director of the Social Survey, met representatives of the Library Research Committee and assured them that a survey such as this was very appropriate at the present time, with the Roberts Committee sitting and other surveys of social services under consideration. While librarians might carry out the actual questioning of interviewees, Dr. Moss emphasized that professional survey workers should select the cross-section of public to be questioned and also frame the questions and interpret the results. Social Survey would be very willing to advise on these points.

There was some feeling in the Library Research Committee that a survey would as likely as not merely confirm the impressions librarians had already gained from experience, and some factual support for this feeling was provided by the report now published of a Pilot Readership Survey conducted by the S.W. Branch of the L.A. No one disputed, though, that authoritative statistical evidence applicable to the whole country would be valuable as such; it would provide a working basis for planning by librarians and local authorities alike and in other ways would usefully serve educationists and publishers.

1959 President. The Rt. Hon. Earl Attlee, O.M., C.H., has accepted the Council's invitation to act as President in the coming year.

NATIONAL LIBRARIES WEEK

Shall We? Shan't We?

While the idea sounded well and was given a sympathetic reception by the Executive Committee, opinions were clearly divided on whether a National Libraries Week, some time in 1959, should be sponsored at all.

There were strong expressions in favour of any project which would advance the cause of public relations in the library field, but equally there were misgivings on the form it could take and its effectiveness, as well as the persuasive view that the best public relations "begin at home". Mr. N. Tomlinson submitted a report on the response he had met in asking what B.B.C. and Press support and coverage might be expected for a National Libraries Week, and this included specimen costs of a filmed advertising short. B.B.C. reaction was favourable while that from the Press was even encouraging. This, however, failed to sell the idea to the Committee who preferred to see these Press offers fully exploited or followed up (assuming—as was reasonable—that no expense was involved) but *not* within the framework of a National Libraries Week. The latter remained something of an unknown quantity and the best the Committee felt it could do with the proposal, at present, was to refer it back to the London and Home Counties Branch to examine in greater detail before reporting to the Executive Committee again.

BRANCH AND SECTION REORGANIZATION

Agreement has been reached in all matters of principle, following a detailed examination of the Chairman's report, by the Branch and Section Organization Committee.

This report will be submitted to the Membership Committee at its next meeting. The final report will go from there to the Executive Committee and then to Council. The Chairman (Mr. J. Wilkie) was warmly congratulated for the able and courteous manner in which he conducted the debates.

Criticism by the University and Research Section that its request to submit oral evidence was not allowed, was met by an undertaking to reconsider the request in the light of the report itself.

An additional grant of £75 has been granted this Section. It is to meet the expenses of the Colleges of Technology sub-section. The question of this Section's income from capitation is to be reviewed next year.

COUNTY LIBRARIES SECTION ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 1959

Members are asked to note that the last date for receiving nominations for the Committee of the County Libraries Section of the L.A. is **31st July, 1958**. Nominations are required for the Office of Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer nine members: of the Committee for England, three for Scotland, two for Wales and one for Northern Ireland. Members must obtain the consent of the nominee before forwarding the nominations to the Honorary Secretary, M. H. D. Budge, County Librarian, County Library, The Butts, Warwickshire.

Information Exchange with Aslib?

It has clearly occurred to some special librarians that while it is still quite fashionable to urge the avoidance of duplication in scientific effort and particularly in scientific publishing, it would be ironic if just such a situation were allowed to exist between the L.A. and Aslib. The latter are accordingly being asked if they would agree to a full exchange of information on research projects. At the same time Mr. C. W. Cleverdon (Librarian, College of Aeronautics) is to be asked if he would supply the Library Research Committee with progress reports on his £10,000 comparative study of indexing methods.

Aslib are now installed in their new offices at 3 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, telephone Belgravia 5050.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS—THE CRITICAL APPROACH

The Youth Libraries Section week-end school is being held this year at Redland College, Bristol, from **5th to 7th September**.

The accent will be on the evaluation and criticism of children's books and speakers will include Richard Armstrong, children's author and winner of the Carnegie Medal, and Naomi Lewis, well-known literary critic.

The cost of the week-end, including a coach tour of the Mendip country, is £3 10s. Programmes and forms of application may be had from the Honorary Secretary, Youth Libraries Section, School Library Service, Belper, Derbyshire. **Last date of application, 31st July.**

£1 MILL. FOR LIVERPOOL SCIENCE LIBRARY

A public appeal is being launched for £500,000 to build in the centre of Liverpool what is hoped will be one of the finest science libraries in the world. Liverpool Corporation cannot finance the scheme at present, so the appeal is to be made to leading industrial and shipping concerns in the area, who would be among those chiefly to benefit from such a library. Dr. Chandler, City Librarian, said that the library would be a 4-floored building, 70 ft. high, with lecture and conference rooms in addition to the library. It would take three years to build.

"CICRIS" FOR TYNESIDE

A co-operative commercial and technical information service, on the lines of north London's CICRIS, is to be established on Tyneside. This decision came out of meetings of local librarians and library authorities which had been sponsored by the Northern Regional Board for Industry, the Tyneside Productivity Committee, and the N.E. Industrial and Development Association. Their decision is a direct result of the Curtis Report on Technical and Scientific Information in the Manufacturing Industries of the North East, which was published last year. The next step will be to invite membership of the scheme which may come into being by the end of this year.

Bullseye Wanted

Among the numerous publications issuing from official sources is a monthly journal, published by the Central Office of Information, called *Target*. Its special concern is industrial productivity through increased efficiency in the factory and office, taking in topics such as mechanical handling, work study, labour relations, standardization, and new or improved machinery and methods. The presentation is clear, without being elaborate, and liberal use is made of illustrations. Add to this the fact that it is free, and it becomes all the more surprising that only 21 public libraries in the country receive *Target*.

Not unnaturally the C.O.I. would like to improve this situation. It has a current circulation of 12,000 to firms, trade unions and technical colleges, but display in all of the public libraries in the country, and in more of the "specials", would mean important additional coverage.

Librarians who would be prepared to help stimulate interest in industrial productivity by taking *Target*, should write to C. R. Dean, Esq., Publications Division, Central Office of Information, Montagu Mansions (Block 5), Crawford Street, Baker Street, London, W.1.

Anglo-Scandinavian Conference

Disgraceful Response by British Librarians

Only eight librarians from this country have so far sent in their applications, whereas our foreign visitors already exceed this number five times over. These facts led to some harsh words and shocked expressions in the L.A. Council.

Our readers are strongly urged to reconsider the possibility of attending this Conference. It is to take place at St. John's College, York, from 29th July to 2nd August. Full details of programme and speakers appear in the April *Record*.

Scandinavian Study Tour

The close relations which have developed between librarians in Scandinavia and the U.K. were extended when 30 library students, accompanied by R. C. Bengt and E. P. Dudley (lecturers at N.W.P. and Ealing Library Schools) visited Denmark and Sweden for 10 days from 25th March to 3rd April.

This was the first co-operative library school tour, students coming from Manchester and Loughborough as well as the two schools mentioned above. The party met with a great deal of attention, particularly in the rural areas, owing to the high proportion of overseas students—there were representatives from Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Egypt, Trinidad and Pakistan.

The tour began at the Askov High School and included libraries at Kolding, Odense, Birkerød, Hørsholm, Helsingør, Frederiksberg and the new library at Copenhagen. Valuable contacts were made with the Danish Library School and the State Library Inspectorate. The Royal Library and the Danish Bibliographical Office were visited and in Sweden libraries at Malmö.

The customary Danish hospitality had a profound and sometimes alarming effect on members of the party, and this, together with the impressions gained of this "model" library system combined to make a most successful tour.

The unfortunate fact in all this (and this is putting it mildly) is that British libraries, interesting though many may be, can offer nothing like the same kind of municipal hospitality in return and that so many journeys are "one-way-only". It is left to individuals to attempt to restore the balance.

R. C. BENGT,
Senior Lecturer, N.W.P.

From the 5th July to the 20th September the **Library Association Library** will close at 6 p.m.

RIFF-RAFF IN THE READING ROOM

When Mr. P. Wightman left Huddersfield Reference Library 5 months ago, to become Regional Librarian at Liskeard in Cornwall, he was complimented on his "dynamic service". And that, he says, "is just what I intend to give here in Liskeard". His first efforts however, have met with a rebuff. Mr. Wightman had found Liskeard Reading Room "a place where persons with nothing else to do have come to eat, sleep and gossip". Three of the national daily newspapers that were taken were judged to attract these "undesirables", and it was decided with the County Librarian to cut out these papers for a trial period of three months, to test public reaction. The papers were the *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail*, and *Daily Herald*, described by Mr. Wightman as "particularly prone to paying excessive attention to common crime and general misdemeanours".

To balance their removal some quality journals were introduced, including *Connoisseur*, *Discovery*, *New Scientist* and *National Geographic Magazine*. In a letter to the local paper Mr. Wightman defended his action by deploring those papers "whose contents so often publicize the event that breaks the generally accepted standards and rules of society", and suggesting that "what is needed is a vigorous, powerful, first-class mental stimulant"; and though "libraries are not 'The only way to heaven', they can at least contribute considerably".

Urged by their borough archivist, who had conducted an unofficial survey on the matter, Liskeard Council decided unanimously to draw the attention of the County Librarian to the agreement handing over the library to the County, whereby the news-room provision should be continued substantially unaltered. The Council's action apparently convinced the County of the strength of public feeling and at the beginning of May the newspapers were restored.

Things got more desperate at LUTON, where they have had to call upon the police. Said Mr. F. M. Gardner, Borough Librarian: "The newspapers, which are on a landing, attract the riff-raff. There have been arguments, betting slips passed, an occasional fracas and two cases of soliciting. We have an arrangement for police to call three times a day to sort out undesirables who monopolize the newspapers all day. In future *The Times*, *Financial Times*, *Manchester Guardian*, and of course the local paper, will be available in the reference library." When the Luton library is extended a new reading room will be built and newspapers will again be openly accessible.

RATING

The Secretary wishes to thank all those librarians who replied so promptly to the questionnaire on the rating of public libraries. Information was received from 89 per cent. of the public libraries in the United Kingdom and has proved most useful.

A Price on NOISE

Derbyshire County may add to that small collection of delectable pleasures in law-breaking so beloved by students on Boat Race Night. In Derbyshire, not only can you pull the communication cord or knock the bobby's helmet off, but for a £5 fine you may (if by-laws are passed) be able to "raise the roof" inside the public library. It was explained: "We never expect a riot, nor do we wish to be unreasonable, but you have to have some order."

Local Customs

Bird in a Guildford Cage

According to a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, Guildford Public Library has a budgerigar. His name is Pip. He occupies a gilded cage in the very centre of the main room and to the cage is attached a card saying:

"Pip can say:

Hey-diddle-diddle,
Pretty Pip,
Pip is a pretty little boy,
Pussy cat—give me a kiss,
Beautiful budgerigar,
Guildford public library,
Merry Christmas,
Beautiful boy,
Silly Billy,
Pieces of eight."

Apparently he twitters along like this all day, which, our correspondent found, was much to the delight of most of the users of the library. There were, unfortunately, the one or two exceptions and these hurried out as though suffering from a sudden attack of nausea.

Birthday Honours: Mr. C. W. Musgrave, Director of Public Libraries, Museum and Art Gallery, Brighton, has been awarded the O.B.E.